

San Bernardino County

Library

2007-2008

Annual Report

Fontana Grand Opening, April 19, 2008

2007/08 Highlights

Three New Branches and a Major Remodel

MENTONE. The past year was especially busy for the library system. In August 2007 we opened the new Mentone Senior Center & Branch Library, the first facility in our system to combine a full-service library with a senior center as an integral part of the library. The new building was made possible by combining multiple funding sources, one of which underwrote the senior center area.

FONTANA. In April 2008 our old Fontana branch moved into a new, two-story, 93,000-square-foot facility on Sierra Avenue, next door to the city's civic center. The Lewis Library & Technology Center boasts the latest in high-tech library tools, as well as loads of technology for patrons.

Among the offerings are over 200 public-access computers, a special video technology lab, Early Learning computer stations for youngsters, unique stock-car-inspired computer carrels in the teen area, and an endlessly entertaining interactive "waterfall" of words and letters at the entry to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Children's Library. The library also offers free WiFi so patrons can bring their own laptops and surf the Internet from anywhere in the building, including the full-service coffee bar.

The Fontana branch was planned from the beginning as a "green" building, using many recycled materials and energy-saving features. The building will be nominated for a Silver Certificate from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

LOMA LINDA. In May we had two openings. The first was a re-opening of the Loma Linda Branch Library, which grew from 6,000 to 15,000 square feet. An all-new wing with a ground floor and a mezzanine level was added to the front of the building, greatly opening up the space and giving it a much brighter, airier feel.

HIGHLAND. The end of May saw the dedication of the first-ever library and environmental learning center, the Sam J. Racadio Library & Environmental Learning Center in Highland. This 30,000-square-foot facility hosts an interesting and entertaining collection of creatures of all kinds: snakes, lizards, frogs, turtles, fish, insects and small mammals. Part of the building's funding came from the Environmental Protection Agency and so patrons are treated to a number of educational exhibits on solid waste management, conservation and other environmental themes. Children have an interactive trash truck exhibit that teaches them how to sort and recycle while they're young, preparing them for more responsible stewardship of their planet as they grow up.

There's an open-air atrium-amphitheater for outside events and the roof includes a garden with specialized plantings selected for drought-tolerance, along with solar electric panels and solar-tube lighting that brings natural sunlight down into the library proper, providing big savings in energy costs.



▲ *Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Paul A. Biane addresses the crowd at the dedication of the Lewis Library & Technology Center.*



▲ *Special Early Learning System computers are designed to help youngsters learn to read.*



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All the building's concrete and steel are recycled. The flooring is almost entirely recycled tires. Even water run-off is set to be captured and allowed to filter back down into the water table. The Highland facility will be nominated for a LEED Gold Certificate.

More New Branches on the Way

Additional new branches are planned for the 2008-09 fiscal year, including the high desert community of Phelan (which broke ground this past spring) and the mountain community of Crestline (overlooking Lake Gregory). Chino Hills will open in early 2009.

San Bernardino County Library System

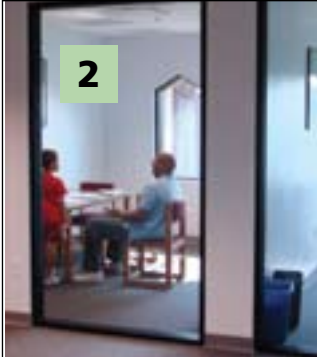
San Bernardino County is the largest county in land area in the United States, covering 20,160 square miles, 90% of it desert and the rest comprised of the San Bernardino Valley and several mountain ranges.

The county is home to over 2 million people, and the area is considered one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The people here are a diverse mix: 38%

▲ *From top: (1) Fontana children's activity room, (2) one of many quiet reading nooks, (3) the coffee bar and (4) the interactive "waterfall" wall of words.*



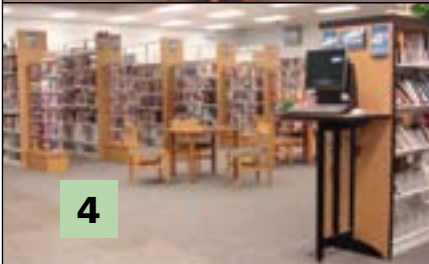
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▲ *(1) Loma Linda's new wing almost triples total space; (2) Study rooms are included; (3) new mezzanine level has computers and work spaces; (4) even "the old" library space looks new!*

white, 45% Hispanic, 9.5% black, 5.2% Asian, .6% Native American and 2% multi-race.¹

The county library serves its population with 30

branch libraries—four of which are joint-use facilities located in high schools—and two bookmobiles.

In a joint-use program, the library is open only to students during the school day (until 3 p.m.) and then is open to the public from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Saturday from 9 to 5.

¹Based on population data for 2007 from California Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.



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▲ *The Mentone Branch Library & Senior Center packs a lot of utility into just 7,254 square feet. From top: (1) the library proper, (2) two youngsters at an Early Learning Station computer, (3) adults and younger patrons at the public-access computers, and (4) a mother and her son enjoying the moment.*

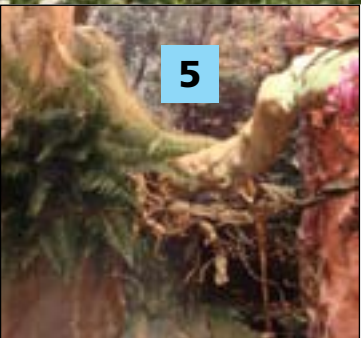
 **San Bernardino County Library**
<http://www.sbcounty.gov/library>



Mentone



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▲ *Highland attractions include, from top, clockwise: (1) roof garden in bloom; (2) the interactive trash truck teaches recycling; (3) opening day draws hundreds of visitors, resulting in hundreds of new library cards issued; (4) youngsters check out the snakes and other critters; and (5) "Iggy" the iguana poses for the camera.*

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Highland



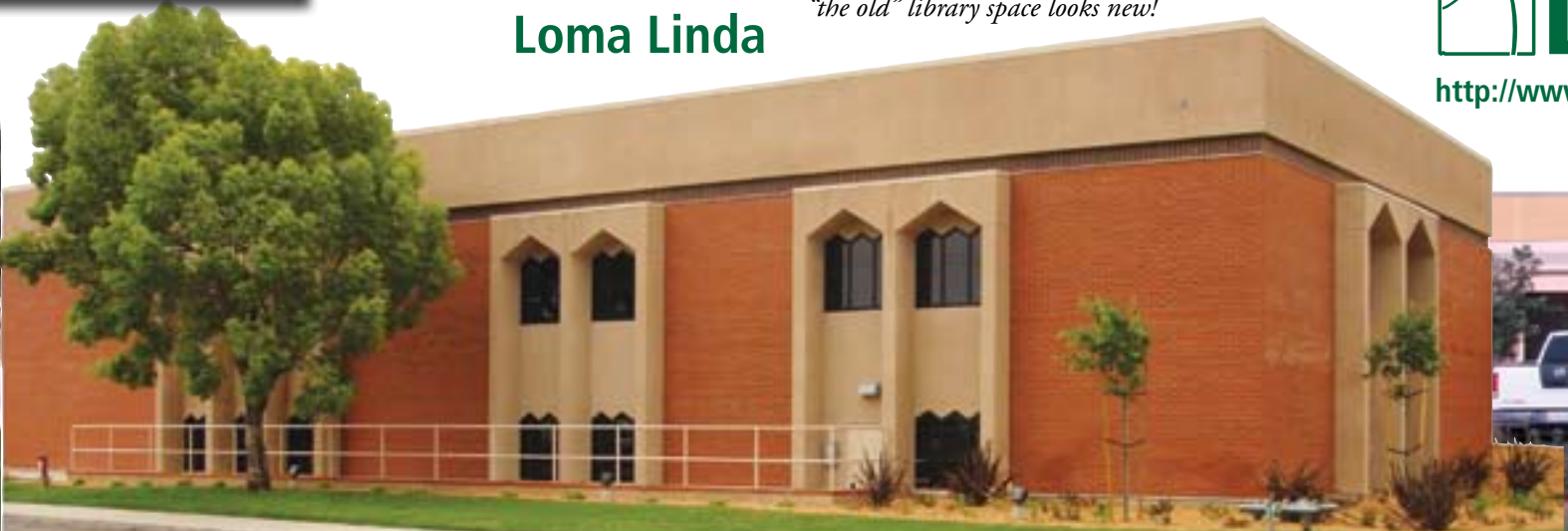
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Fontana



Loma Linda



2007/08 Information

New Facilities Bring In New Patrons

We expected that the opening of a brand new library in Fontana on the city's main north-south street, Sierra Ave., would result in more people coming to the library. But no one was anticipating the actual magnitude of the increase.

From the facility's opening in April through the end of June, Fontana issued over 180,000 new library cards. Over 5,000 people a month are attending Fontana programs and events.

The Highland Sam J. Racadio Library & Environmental Learning Center opened on May 31. It issued over 3,800 new library cards in June, compared to the usual 800/month average at the old building. The facility also now houses the library collection of the Cypress Middle School across the street from the branch. The new branch averages 30,000+ patron visits per month, double last year's average. The environmental learning center and roof-top garden have proven to be strong attractions.

Loma Linda, which nearly tripled in size after its remodel, has seen a substantial increase in patron visits, from a pre-

Library Facts & Figures

2007-2008
EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$ 11,006,512
Services & Supplies	4,621,175
Books & Other Materials	1,936,793
Equipment	943,433
Carry Over	763,000

LIBRARY SERVICE STATISTICS

Materials in Circulation	2,638,187
Library Visitors	3,846,509
Computer Sessions	700,112
Total Borrowers	405,990
Questions Answered	385,256
Items in Collection	1,092,682

remodel average of 8,400 per month to almost 18,000 in its first full month of operation, June. The branch issued 255 new library cards in June.

Patron visits system-wide increased over a half million!

Looking Ahead to New Facilities

As we look ahead to the 2008-09 fiscal year and beyond, we see more new facilities coming.

At this time, an all-new, 30,000-square-foot Chino Hills Branch is scheduled to open early in 2009.

The system is expected to grow beyond 30 branches when the opening of the Chino Preserve joint-use facility is approved.

The Crestline Branch Library has a brand new 7,000+ square-foot library overlooking Lake Gregory now on the drawing board. The high desert community of Phelan



will get its own full-service facility at the intersection of Lindero and Clovis, which will replace the current joint-use facility at Serrano High School.

Volunteer Facts & Figures
2007-2008

Number of volunteers	2,780
Includes branch volunteers, Friends of the Library members & literacy volunteers	
Hours donated	96,739
estimated worth of hours @ \$19.51/hr†	\$1,877,378
† Value of volunteer hours provided by Independent Sector, a nonpartisan coalition of nonprofits.	
Funds raised	\$558,814
Total cash and in-kind donation to SBCL	\$2,436,192

Route 66 Rendezvous proved to be a success once again, raising over \$15,000 for library materials. New this year was a special Friday lunch-time event for County employees that drew hundreds of brat-hungry fans to the world's longest barbecue grill. (1) "Grillers' Row" gets brats for books off and running. (2) Friends of the Library operate the book sale booth in front of Admin. (3) Route 66 is all about the cars. (4) The first-ever lunch brat-draw crowd.

It was a busy year for volunteers, who donated more of their time to the library than ever. Shown below: (1) Maria Shriver's address at the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism in February in Sacramento, attended by our volunteer coordinator; (2) Apple Valley Friends of the Library at the annual all-branch FOL event held in Fontana in April; (3) volunteer recognition dinner at the Mentone Branch & Senior Center; and (4) Twentynine Palms volunteer Eileen Bailey, an "Oscar"-winning star!



The next crop of new facilities scheduled to open during the coming year or two include, at left, from top to bottom: (a) Chino Hills Branch Library; (b) Chino Preserve Branch Library; (c) Crestline Branch Library; (d) Phelan Branch Library.



San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

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